

POWER STATION AT ÖSTRA SANDVADET

Man has long since understood how to utilise the power and opportunities offered by water, both on a large and small scale. Most small-scale installations have disappeared. Small water mills, i.e. simple subsistence mills that with their horizontal paddle wheel worked even in the smallest streams, can sometimes be found preserved in rural community centres or open air museums.

When it comes to electric power transmission in the 20th century, even fewer small-scale environments remain.

At the cottage Östra Sandvadet on the plateau Hökensås, west of Brandstorp, a very small electric power station has been restored and reconstructed in recent years. It is a minimal power plant with a relatively unknown history.

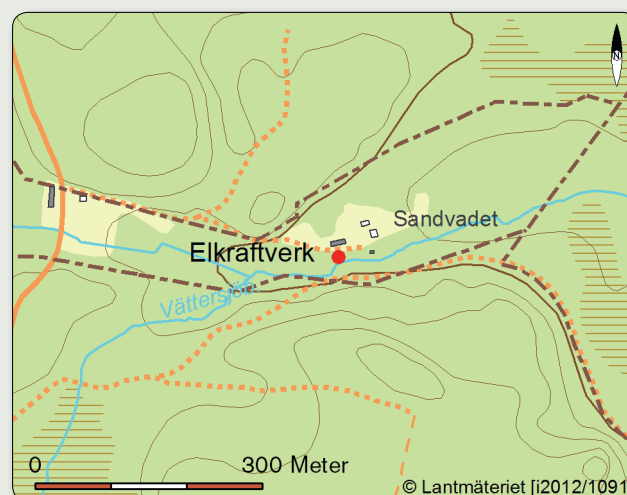
This small-scale plant was only used to supply electricity to the cottage, and was sufficient for operating an old refrigerator, a slow water pump, the odd lamp, and a low efficiency hot plate. The waterwheel and chute were restored in the 1950s by the then owners together with an engineer who was a member of the family. The more recent reconstruction of the chute and waterwheel was made possible using preserved parts and old photographs. The power station is of culture historical interest today because of its small-scale and the fact that it is still working.

When the plant is running, water is led from the stream via a water chute to a waterwheel, which operates an engine. The rotation speed is regulated by a simple generator. When the plant is not running, the water is led in its ordinary course past the chute.

The stream originates higher up on Hökensås and is a tributary to the river Skämningsforsån, which discharges into Lake Vättern, less than one kilometer north of Brandstorp.



The new waterwheel, reconstructed from preserved parts and a photograph from the 1950s. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.



HIDDEN GEM 80



HOW TO GET HERE

From the south, along Road 195: Turn off towards Brandstorp church and continue for a further 3 km. Turn north towards Kopparhults kvarn. After approx. 1.5 km, park the car by the first barn on the left side of the road. Follow the path on the other side of the road, past the dwelling, around 300 m to the east.

Coordinates:
N 6441467 / E449856
(SWEREF 99 TM) // N 58°
06' 42,27 E 14° 08 56,88"
(WGS84)



Water is led from the small stream, via a simple wooden chute, to the wheelhouse. Photo: Jönköping County Museum.

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HIDDEN GEMS

There are so many things to discover in the countryside! Here, Jönköping County Museum presents some of the cultural environment and heritage attractions in the county.

They include well-known cultural monuments such as Habo Church and the Smålandsstenar Stone Circles, but also lesser known gems such as log-driving remains in the river Valån and Stengårdshult Church. Around the county you can find evidence of how people lived and worked in the past, everything from castles and manors to abandoned embankments and clearance cairns in forest areas.

The idea with Hidden Gems is to tempt you to make excursions in the cultural landscape – here you find our history, revealed in different ways in the physical environment. This heritage is worth experiencing and protecting. Bit by bit, we will be adding more sights under the heading Hidden Gems, both for people living in the county and visitors from further away. The more people who discover these gems, the better chance that they will be preserved for the future.

FACTS

In Jönköping County there are more than 4 000 registered ancient remains, 87 cultural environments of national interest, close to 130 listed buildings, around 150 churches, some 100 rural community centres with old settlements, a large number of industrial heritage sites, and two cultural reserves. There are also a large number of cultural environments with buildings worthy of conservation. More information about the sites can be found on the websites of the County Administrative Board, the municipalities and the local heritage societies.

GOOD TO KNOW

Access to the Hidden Gems varies. Some sites are well signposted, with easy access and proper parking facilities, etc. Others are more challenging to reach. Visitors may have to walk some distance, sometimes through scrubby forest, only to be met by a broken sign (if there ever was one) when they reach the site. All the sites, however, have an exciting and interesting history.

Please note that many of the cultural heritage buildings are privately owned and can only be viewed from the outside. Also, please respect private land. Many churches are open in the summer. During other times of the year, the churchwarden may be able to open the church for you.

